

modeling system so that the science will be able to demonstrate where the hot spots exist, where the problem areas are, so we are in a better position then of making policy choices of how better to direct the limited resources to get the optimal effect of the investment in land stewardship through, voluntary and incentive-based land conservation programs, and the benefit that is going to bring to the entire river basin area.

My district, Mr. Speaker, has more miles that border the Mississippi River than any other congressional district in the Nation, and therefore I felt a certain personal responsibility to keep an eye on the river and to promote good policy and legislation that will enhance the long-term sustainability of this great natural resource.

It is one of the reasons I was motivated to help form a bipartisan Mississippi River Task Force so that we can start working more effectively together between the upper Mississippi region and the southern Mississippi River region on issues of common ground and to better educate ourselves in regard to the different uses of this valuable river system.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank a few individuals who have been very helpful in support of this legislation. I want to, of course, thank the original cosponsors of this legislation, including the other cochairs of the Upper Mississippi River Task Force, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

I also want to thank the congressional cochairs of the entire Mississippi River Caucus, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) for their support and their staff's support for this legislation.

In addition, I want to thank Ms. Holly Stoerker of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, Mr. Doug Daigle of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance, Dr. Jerry Schnoor of the University of Iowa, and Dr. Barry Drazkowski and the administration and staff at St. Mary's University in Minnesota for a lot of the ideas that are contained within this legislation. Their expertise and testimony during the hearings that we have had on this legislation was essential in crafting the bipartisan approach that this legislation takes.

Also greatly appreciated is the tireless work of a few individuals in my office, former Sea Grant fellow Allen Hance, who is now with the Northeast Midwest Institute, along with other Sea Grant fellows, Laura Cimo, Jeff Stein and Ed Buckner, who have worked in my office, worked specifically on this legislation dealing with a lot of the shareholders and groups interested in this legislation, as well as other issues affecting the Mississippi River Basin area.

I also want to thank a couple permanent members on my staff, Ben Proc-

tor, who is with us on the floor today, and also Brad Pfaff, who has carried a lot of the weight with this legislation during the period of time we have been working on it. Their help has been greatly appreciated.

H.R. 3480 represents a commonsense move toward building the scientific foundation necessary to remedy nutrient and sediment problems throughout the Mississippi River Basin. I believe this is a needed, cost-effective step in preserving the Upper Mississippi River and its multiple-use heritage for future generations, and I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3480, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act.

For quite some time there have been several federal, state, and local programs designed to address the problem of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, but there has been little coordination between them. This bill will provide this much needed coordination and enable a more comprehensive approach to addressing this problem.

In Wisconsin, and particularly in my district, agriculture is a vital industry. The soil erosion suffered by farmers in the area reduces and threatens the long-term sustainability and income of my state's family farms.

Furthermore, the cost of dredging the sediment fills in the river's main shipping channel costs over \$100 million each year. These fills also threaten the region's \$1.2 billion recreation and \$6.6 billion tourism industries.

While the Upper Mississippi River Basin contributes 22 percent of the water flowing into the Lower Mississippi, it contributes 31 percent of the nitrogen, threatening the water quality of that part of the river.

By designating the U.S. Geological Survey as the lead agency, this bill will provide the much needed coordination, monitoring, and scientific data collection to implement informed and effective conservation decisions for the river basin. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Upper Mississippi River Task Force, I am proud that the House is considering the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act today.

This bill is good for farmers, and it is good for the environment.

Every year, farmers collectively lose more than \$300 million in applied nitrogen due to erosion. Not only does this hurt the Mississippi River ecosystem—it hurts farmers' checkbooks.

Soil erosion also causes sedimentation problems on the river. Dredging costs due to increased sedimentation run over \$100 million each year, and removing the sediment is integral to keeping the river a viable transportation mechanism. Sediments also fill critical wetland areas in the Mississippi River basin, threatening the plants and wildlife.

Currently there is insufficient data on the amounts and sources of sediments and nutrients in the upper Mississippi River basin. Local, state, and federal water quality monitoring and modeling efforts are not coordinated or standardized. This legislation will develop a coordinated public-private approach to reducing nutrient and sediment losses in the

upper Mississippi River basin, and will establish a water quality monitoring network and an integral computer modeling program.

This bill will provide the baseline data needed to make scientifically sound and cost-effective decisions that will benefit all who depend on the health of the upper Mississippi River basin for transportation, recreation, or whatever their needs may be.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALDEN of Oregon). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3480.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3848, H.R. 2937, H.R. 3958 and H.R. 3480.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF UTAH, SALT LAKE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND ATHLETES OF WORLD FOR SUCCESSFUL AND INSPIRING 2002 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 363) congratulating the people of Utah, the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and the athletes of the world for a successful and inspiring 2002 Olympic Winter Games, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 363

Whereas the State of Utah hosted the world during the largest and most successful Olympic Winter Games ever held;

Whereas the people of Utah opened their hearts and their homes to the athletes of the world and represented the Nation well to the world community;

Whereas the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, its president, Mitt Romney, and its chairman, Robert Garff did a spectacular job in staging a great Winter Olympics with class, dignity, and a proper focus on the athletic competition;